Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

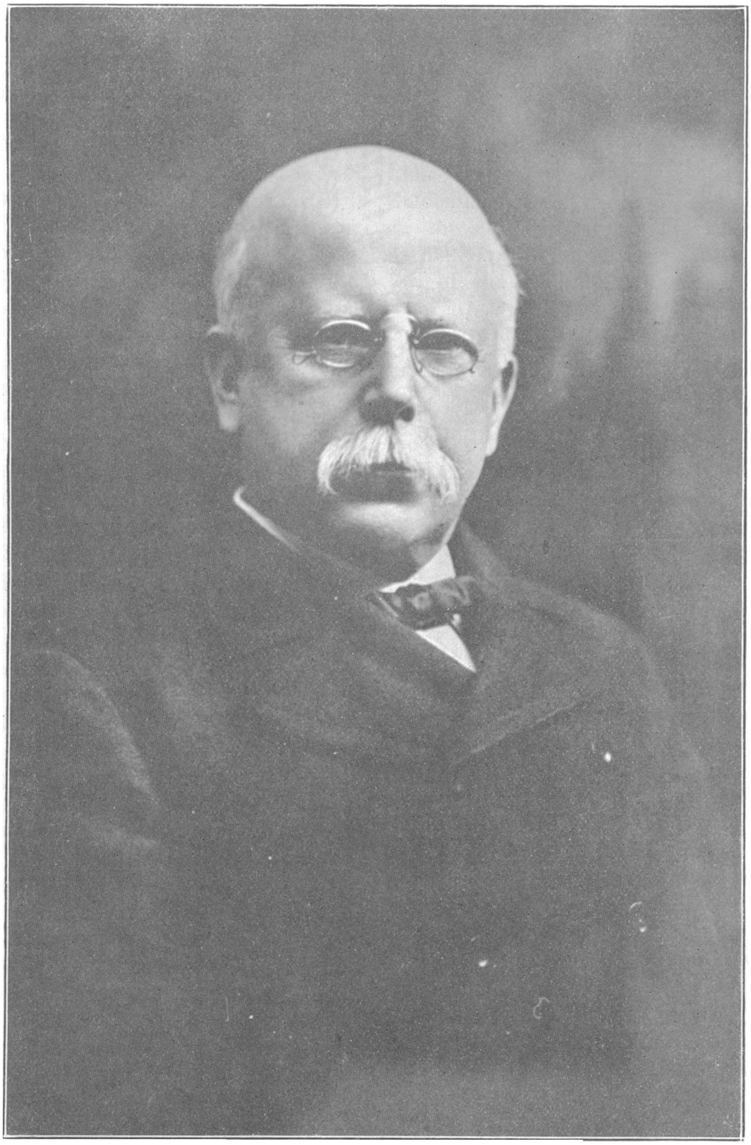
This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



THOMAS CORWIN MENDENHALL

damental units of electrical measurement: the ohm, the ampere, and the volt. The members of this committee were Ayrton, Mascart, Mendenhall, Rowland and von Helmholtz, and the definitions agreed upon are known as the "International electrical units."

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF JUNE 8

FROM the earliest times of which there is record a total eclipse of the sun has excited wonder and been the occasion of omens and portents. Now that its cause is understood, it is still a striking occurrence, not

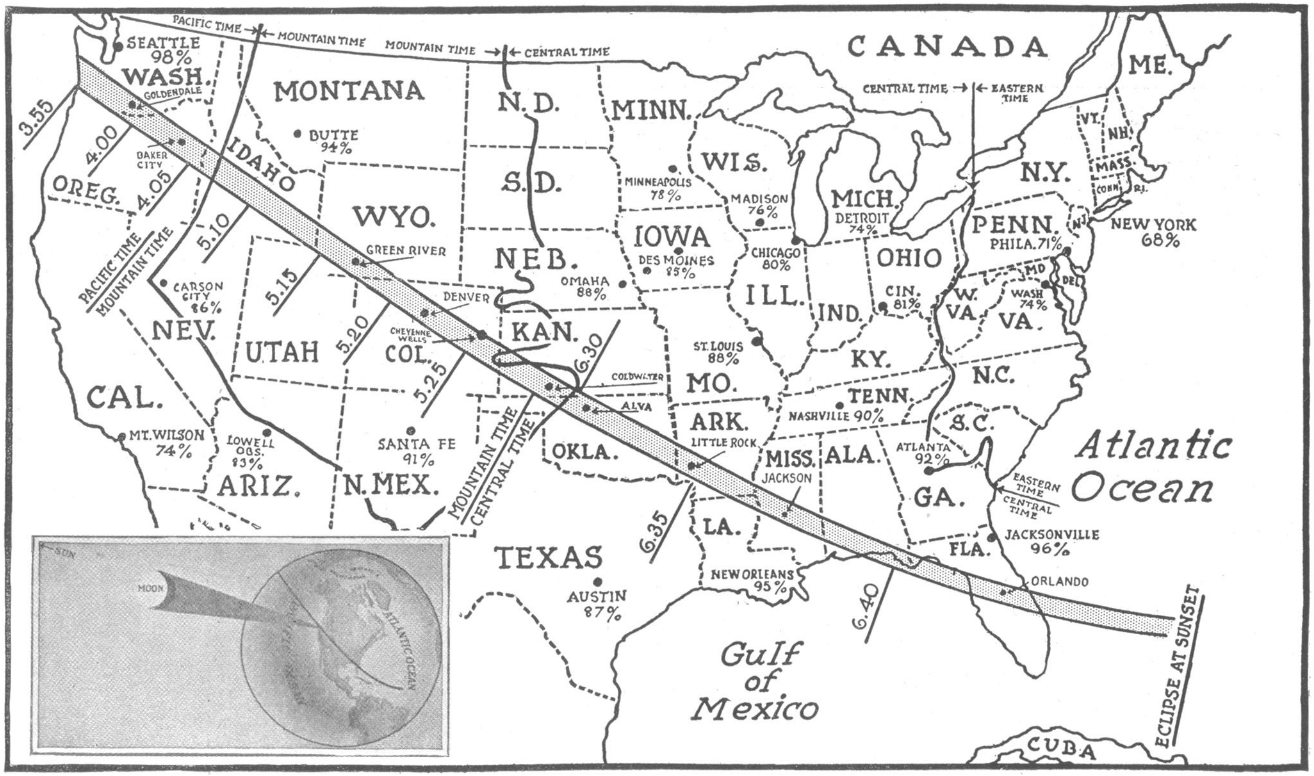


Chart from the *American Review of Reviews,* showing the path of the moon's shadow (track of totality) across the United States. The figures adjacent to the eclipse path show the standard "Summer" Time at which totality began. Outside the path of totality a partial eclipse was visible all over the United States. The percentage of the solar disk that was covered by the moon is shown at several places on the map. The diagram in the lower left corner shows how the moon, coming between the sun and the earth on June 8, blocked the sun's rays and cast a shadow on the earth.

only to people who witness its dramatic phases, but also to men of science who study its phenomena. The event is so rare, the duration is so short, the distance that must often be traveled to reach the place of observation is so great, the difficulties of arranging apparatus in an unusual place are so considerable, the chance of a cloudy sky is so disastrous, that unusual interest is excited even among astronomers.

The eclipse of June 8 was notable in that the shadow passed across the whole United States from Washington to Florida. Not for a hundred years will a total solar eclipse be visible over so large an area of the country. Though the shadow was rather narrow, the time of totality not long and the sun somewhat too near the horizon, the opportunity for observation in the Northwest was very good. The war, however, prevented the presence of any expeditions from abroad, and American observatories are much distracted from their regular work by existing conditions. It is also the case that photography has permitted the solution of many of the problems of special interest and that this can now be used in many directions apart from an eclipse. New problems, however, always arise and scientific men are now interested in the Einstein theory of relativity, according to which rays of light from the stars should be subject to deviation by gravitation when passing close to the sun, and this may be determined by photographing the sky about the sun at the time of a total eclipse.

Expeditions to the Northwest were sent from the Lick, Mount Wilson, Yerkes, Naval and other observatories and from the Smithsonian Institution and the Weather Bureau. The Chamberlin Observatory of the University of Denver is only eight miles from the middle of the shadow. The best account of the eclipse that has appeared is in a press dispatch prepared by Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, who has now observed six total eclipses of the sun.

The Crocker Expedition from the Lick Observatory was stationed at Goldendale, Wash., situated exactly on the central line of the eclipse path. Dr. Campbell states that a few of the twenty-six photographs secured with cameras of focal lengths from eleven inches up to forty feet have been developed, and the details of coronal structure are recorded with admirable sharpness, showing that the earth's atmosphere was in a tranquil state. Four cameras of fifteen-feet focus, using plates of 14 x 17 inches, were used to record the brighter stars in the regions immediately surrounding the sun to detect, if possible, the displacements required by the Einstein hypothesis and to determine the existence of bodies such as the hypothetic planet Vulcan in the vicinity of the sun. Two spectrographs gave images of the stratum of green coronium gas enveloping the sun, and the general spectrum was recorded in good strength with two spectrographs.

The weather conditions at Goldendale were most dramatic. The prospect for a clear sky was apparently hopeless during the whole day, but a very small area of blue sky free from clouds with the sun as its center appeared exactly at the center of the total phase when all other parts of the sky were clouded. This region cleared not more than a minute before the beginning of totality and the clouds again covered the sun within less than a minute of the passing of the shadow.

THE CONSERVATION OF PLATINUM

THE country is and for many years will be urgently in need of platinum in its industrial work and